



SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

July
1948



Miscellany

It's a Law.—The 80th Congress approved an act whereby it is now a petty offense to enter any national-forest land while it is closed to the public. This now puts teeth into the closure policy of the Forest Service, whenever such closures are put into effect.

North Face of Sentinel Rock.—Our intrepid twosome, Anton Nelson and John Salathe, have again recorded a first ascent. Briefly we are told the tale. "June 12, John Salathe and Ax Nelson went up to the north face of Sentinel Rock, just to look around, and accidentally made a first ascent of that formidable-looking wall. Needless to say the easiest possible route was taken—to the right to Tree Ledge—to the left and rope traversing into the Bowl—then straight up six or eight long leads to the top. Severe to extreme Class 4 or 5, two or three Class 6 pitons. One long series of high angle disintegrating open chimneys. Poor protection, dangerous, exhilarating, enjoyable. Scramble down back-side chutes."

Fuel on Tamalpais.—Firewood has been available in Mount Tamalpais State Park free of charge up to the present time, as there has been a supply left over from the cleanup and salvage of the former CCC Camp. Word has recently come, however, from John H. Knight, Superintendent, Central District, that this supply is nearly exhausted and the Division of Beaches and Parks will have to purchase fuel for the visiting public. Because of the necessity of having to buy fuel, the Division plans on making it available at standard fuel charges to those who wish it.

There is a uniform charge which applies in various parks where fuel is handled and made available for purchase by picnickers or campers. The schedule of charges is ap-

proved by the State Park Commission. For a conservation as well as protection measure, the Division has found from experience that it is necessary to have fuel available. Sometime during July of this year, therefore, fuel can be obtained for those who wish to purchase it at standard charges in Mount Tamalpais State Park. The usual charge for wood is 25 cents for a 12"x12" bundle. Any comments or reactions that Sierra Club members may have to this planned charge for fuel will be welcomed by the Division of Beaches and Parks.

Directors to Meet over Labor Day.—The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Sunday, September 5, in Tuolumne Meadows.

Federation to Meet in Oregon.—For Labor Day week end, why not consider the annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, at Silver Creek Camp in the Silver Creek Recreation Area, 25 miles east of Salem, Oregon. The Chemeketans of Salem, host club, extend a cordial welcome, while excellent camps, fine trails, and plenty of beautiful waterfalls, lakes, and peaks assure a delightful summer's end vacation, to all who can attend this convention.

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Cover: Hetchy Valley. By J. N.

LeConte. From a print made by Ansel Adams.

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Published monthly except August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$6.00 (first year \$12.00), of which \$1.00 is for subscription to Sierra Club Bulletin. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under Act of March 3, 1879. Contributions and changes of address should go to address above; communications on matters of club policy should be addressed to the Secretary, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 33

JULY, 1948

NUMBER 7

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

For the July Record

Lake Solitude

The hearings held by the Bureau of Reclamation in Wyoming in February concerning the conversion of Lake Solitude into a storage reservoir turned up some vigorous opposition to the project. So convincing were the arguments against the damming of the lake that the Bureau of Reclamation temporarily suspended further plans and action on this site and is investigating alternate sites for the dam.

The Secretary of the Interior has also requested the National Park Service to prepare a detailed report of the probable effects of a reservoir at Lake Solitude upon scenic values in the Cloud Peak Primitive Area. Reinforced concrete, drowned trees, and mud flats will not improve the scenic beauty or recreational possibilities of Lake Solitude, and we hope that the Park Service will report this in unmistakable terms.

J.B.

Shasta Lake

The administration of recreation activities on Shasta Lake and the management of adjoining government lands has been taken over by the U. S. Forest Service, according to an announcement on July 1 by Robert E. Jones, Supervisor of Shasta National Forest.

In the announcement Supervisor Jones stated that the lands turned over to the Forest Service will be managed under the same principles as other national-forest lands. "Full consideration will be given to development and protection of all re-

sources, present and potential, for use by the public in various ways. Watershed management will receive primary attention. Restoration and protection of vegetative cover on the watershed is vitally important, and is consistent with the purpose for which Shasta Dam was built. Recreation development and use of lakeshore lands will come next in consideration. Plans will also provide for timber production, reforestation of denuded areas, grazing, mining, and wildlife management on adjoining lands."

Preliminary studies by the U.S.F.S. indicate that it probably will be possible to provide most of the types of recreational use common in national forests. Order of preference will be public campgrounds and picnic grounds, organization camps, commercial services and summer homes. Plans are to complete public campgrounds and picnic grounds at Lakeshore, then proceed as fast as possible with construction of new campgrounds at Salt Creek, McCloud Bridge and Antlers. Immediate attention is to be given to establishing essential commercial services, including the Bridge Bay development, a sight-seeing boat concession and public docks.

Temporary administrative headquarters will be at the U. S. Forest Service ranger station in Redding. Jack McNutt is the officer in charge of the Shasta Lake recreation project; William Meyer, who was just recently transferred from Los Padres National Forest, is his assistant. The project is under the general supervision of Forest Supervisor Jones, whose headquarters are located at Mount Shasta.

Matthew Hall McAllister

In the death of M. Hall McAllister on June 3, in Redlands, the Sierra Club lost a valued and faithful member. Director from 1922-26, elected a patron in 1923 because of his many services to the club, his loss is felt deeply. The tradition of working for the Sierra Club has been handed down in his family, and at the present time his grandson, Edward H. Grubb, is serving as chairman of the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

Few of the skiers and climbers who are grateful for the shelter afforded them in the hut on Mount Shasta know that Mr.

McAllister was responsible for the building of it, and the upkeep of it for a number of years. Nor do the hundreds of people who cling to the cable to gain the summit of Half Dome realize that their thanks also should go to him. The next annual number of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* will carry a more detailed account of Mr. McAllister's life and his long and outstanding association with the Sierra Club. This brief statement however, will recall to his many friends and members of the club some of the special services he has rendered over so many years.

Annual Essay Contest

This year the Sierra Club again sponsored a conservation essay contest in the schools, in coöperation with the Travel Sports and Boat Show held in San Francisco the beginning of May. As was the case in 1947, the first year the contest was held, there was a good response this year, especially from a number of the rural schools.

One hundred and forty-three essays on "What Conservation in California Means to Me" were submitted, from a total of 31 schools. Most of the schools entered only one or two essays each, but Arcata Union High School came through with 68 entries, Campbell High School 18, Modesto High School 15, and South Fork Union High School at Miranda 10.

The first prize winner among the boys was Donald Leighton, age 15, of Turlock Union High School, followed by E. Farrar Richardson, of South Fork Union High School at Miranda, second, and Jose M. Abaitiz, of Sacred Heart College High School, San Francisco, third. Nancy Stockton, age 17, of Oakdale, won first prize for the girls, Patricia Perry of Campbell Union High School second, and Alice Eastman of Balboa High School, San Francisco, third.

Donald Leighton, Nancy Stockton, Alice Eastman and Jose Abaitiz were guests at the Sierra Club Annual Dinner, at which Donald read his essay to the interested members. He is hoping to go into the For-

est Service or the Fish and Game Commission. Jose Abaitiz, who only recently came over from the Philippines, and Alice Eastman, also a newcomer, show a genuine interest in the conservation situation in California even though their experience here has not been long. The first prize winners were brought to San Francisco with all expenses paid, and were taken from the Annual Dinner to the Sports Show, where the prizes were awarded. Donald Leighton and Nancy Stockton were presented with sleeping bags which their award from the Sierra Club—two weeks at the Sierra Club Base Camp—will soon give them an opportunity to use. Prizes for the second and third winners were Coleman stoves and other camping equipment.

In comparing the essays of last year, as we remember them, with those of this year, it seems to us that perhaps the former were somewhat more personal, possibly a bit more imaginative. This year, however, the young people seem to have gained a broader picture of conservation problems, to have learned that conservation covers a wide field, and that the conservationist must ever be alert to all these problems. It is interesting to see that although the young essayists have pictured California conservation problems in general, they do lay emphasis on the special problems, such as soil erosion and lumbering, that arise in particular localities.

Executive Committee Streamlines Club Committees

Reorganization of the committees of the Sierra Club was one of the important matters brought before the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors by President Francis Farquhar at its meeting on May 8. The President stated that he considered it advisable and necessary to reorganize the 30 committees of the club which are appointed by the Board of Directors, in such a way as to coordinate for more satisfactory efficiency the work of these committees. The following committees and the principal appointments were therefore proposed and accepted:

The Conservation Committee, under Arthur H. Blake, chairman, and Jack Barnard, secretary, will have two main divisions. The General Conservation Division will include as subcommittees the Annual High School Essay Contest, Butano Redwoods, Grazing, Dams, Roads, South Calaveras Grove, and specific projects. The Park and Forest Administration Division will take into consideration Concessions in National Parks, Inappropriate Activities in National Parks, High Sierra Wilderness Conference, Kings Canyon Development, Tioga Road Development, and Zoning in National Parks.

The Editorial Board continues with David R. Brower as chairman and editor of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

The Legal Committee, with Robert L. Lipman as chairman, is responsible for legal advice to officers and committees, legal representation of the club, and insurance.

Alfred E. Weiler begins his eleventh year as chairman of the Library and Clubrooms Committee. This committee is in charge of the library—the books, periodicals, all collections of maps, photographs, and others—, care of the clubrooms, and the exhibits in the clubrooms.

The Lodge Committee, with Alex Hildebrand as chairman, is now responsible for Clair Tappaan Lodge (under which come the main lodge, Peter Grubb Shelter Hut, White Rock Hut, Benson Hut, and Flora and Azalea Lakes property), Mount Shasta Lodge and property, Parsons Lodge and

property, LeConte Lodge, Muir Shelter, Keller Peak Hut, San Antonio Hut, Shand Memorial Hut, and Zumwalt Meadows property. The administration of the Harwood Lodge was continued under the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee of the Southern California Chapter.

E. W. Cunningham was appointed as chairman of the Membership Committee, with James R. Harkins vice-chairman.

The Mountaineering Committee, with Morgan Harris as chairman, Weldon Heald vice-chairman, and John Dyer, secretary, is responsible for mountaineering policies, safety, and mountain records (including the 14,000' peak certificates).

The Natural Sciences Committee under Milton Hildebrand, chairman, will coordinate and encourage local scientific activities, prepare authentic information, be responsible for glacier study, mountain sheep, and wildlife protection.

The Outing Committee continues under Richard M. Leonard as chairman; Kenneth Adam has been appointed the new chairman of the Visual Education Committee; Einar Nilsson, Winter Sports Committee chairman; Ted Grubb, chairman of the Annual Dinner Committee.

It will be noted that all other existing committees have either been placed under one of these main committees or discharged. Those not already mentioned under the foregoing committees will be placed as follows: Education—All publicity is to be handled through the Executive Committee and the Editorial Board in accordance with previous action of the Board of Directors. Nominating, and Judges of Election—No action is necessary until the December meeting of the Board. Muir Collection—Discharged upon report by the chairman that no action is possible at the present time. Organization—Discharged with appreciation for its fine service in developing the amendments of the By-Laws adopted in February, 1947.

Among other matters brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, the President stated that he would need maximum assistance from the Vice-President to

carry on effectively the heavy program of the club. He therefore proposed that the Vice-President undertake to keep in touch with and attend the meetings of as many of the club committees as he could arrange for, with specific responsibility for liaison with the Lodge, Mountaineering, and Winter Sports committees.

Bestor Robinson, a member of the eight-man national committee appointed by Secretary Krug to advise on conservation problems, reported that the first meeting of the committee was called at Washington, D.C., for May 24. Because of the importance of the threat of Kings Canyon power development and the initiation of a zoning program in national parks, the Executive Committee felt that Mr. Robinson should attend this meeting. Payment

of his expenses was to be from the Sierra Club funds budgeted for conservation.

Upon the recommendation of the Editorial Board the proceeds of sale of Sierra Club publications are to go into a Publications Fund, with appropriate accounts to show the funds received from each of the publications. All such funds, however, are to be subject to appropriation and budgeting by the Board of Directors before expenditure.

The Secretary reported that the "Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1948" had passed the House with an authorization for \$500,000,000 a year for highway construction, of which \$25,000,000 a year would be for forest access highways. The matter was referred to the Roads subcommittee of the Conservation Committee for attention.

Conservation and the 80th Congress—A Summing Up

From January 6, 1947 to June 19, 1948, nearly 10,000 bills were introduced into the House and Senate. Of these, about 100 were of minor interest to the Sierra Club and 25 commanded our attention to varying degrees. Here are the highlights and the progress of bills which interested the Sierra Club.

Olympic National Park.—Olympic got more than its share of attention from Congress. Nine bills were introduced, each a proposal designed to eliminate lands from the Park. H.R. 2750, 2751, and 4054 were identical bills which would have eliminated 56,000 acres of forest land, much of it prime wilderness area. H. J. Res. 84, S. Con. Res. 55, and H. Con. Res. 203 would have set up commissions whose specified task would have been to study the Park to determine where and how much the boundaries could be reduced.

Opposition to these bills by the Sierra Club, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and the Wilderness Society, to mention but a few, resulted in hearings before the House Committee on Public Lands in September, 1947, at Lake Crescent in the Park. The strong arguments of conservationists prevented the ax from falling, so the trees still stand—but the lumbermen still cry, "More timber!"

Jackson Hole National Monument.—The attack on the Monument began on March 15, 1943, the day it was created, and has continued in every Congress, including the 80th. On January 27, 1947, three weeks after the 80th Congress convened, Mr. Barrett (Wyoming), introduced H.R. 1330, "To abolish Jackson Hole National Monument," and it has hung over us like the sword of Damocles ever since. After hearings had been held on H.R. 1330, it was amended to allow a small portion of the Monument to be added to the Grand Teton National Park, and the remainder to be abolished. This unsatisfactory "compromise" was brought before the House twice on the Consent Calendar, but each time its passage was blocked.

Senator Robertson (Wyoming) introduced a similar bill, S. 1951, and also a bill, S. 91, which would have abolished the Monument by amending the Antiquities Act of 1906, under which the Monument was established. Neither measure was considered by the Senate.

One of the friends of Jackson Hole National Monument is Representative Peterson (Florida), who did his part to aid the cause by re-introducing his bill, H.R. 3035. This measure would provide payments in lieu of taxes and stock driveways across the

Monument, thereby settling much of the argument against the Monument. Unfortunately, this bill was not considered by the House.

As in the Olympic argument, the Wilderness Society, Izaak Walton League, Sierra Club, and the Federation, as well as numerous other conservation organizations, were the backbone of the opposition which prevented Mr. Barrett and those he represents from carrying out their plan in the 80th Congress.

Land Acquisition Program, Superior National Forest.—In the June *Bulletin*, we described at length the various bills introduced to provide funds for acquiring private lands within Superior National Forest. One of these bills, S. 1090, was passed by Congress and signed by the President.

This is a great step forward in the program of The President's Committee for the Quetico Superior Area, which is endeavoring to establish a joint U.S.-Canadian memorial peace park on the boundary between the two countries.

National Park Land Acquisition Commission.—Two bills, S. 2132 and H.R. 6767, outlined in the April and June *Bulletins*, if enacted would have set up a land acquisition program for private lands within the national parks and monuments, and also provided for payments in lieu of taxes out of revenues from the national parks and monuments.

H.R. 6767 was considered by the House Committee on Public Lands and reported favorably, without amendment. However, the Congress adjourned before action could be taken.

The Sierra Club has lent its support to both of these measures with the hope that our encouragement will help to stimulate enough interest in the program to insure the passage of a similar bill by the next Congress.

Predator Control.—Two bills, S. 891 and H.R. 2863, designed to force the National Park Service to control the wolf population in Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, were introduced into the 80th Congress but not acted upon.

The Sierra Club opposed these bills on the ground that Congress should not legis-

late on a detail of wildlife management which should be left to the experts within the Park Service.

Shasta Recreational Area.—H.R. 3175 was passed by the Congress and signed by the President at the end of the first session. It transferred jurisdiction over the recreational features of Shasta Lake from the National Park Service to the Forest Service. The Sierra Club supported this measure, inasmuch as the Forest Service already controlled three sides of the Lake, except for a narrow strip between the Lake and the edge of the National Forest which was administered by the Park Service. We felt that a single agency could administer the entire area more effectively. The article on Shasta Lake elsewhere in this *Bulletin* gives the Forest Service's description of just what its new responsibility covers.

Acquisition of State Lands within Glacier National Park.—H.R. 4980 became Public Law 446 on March 16, 1948. It authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain lands within the Glacier National Park which were owned by the State of Montana.

The Sierra Club supported this measure because any move to perfect the Federal government's title to lands within the boundaries of a national park should be encouraged.

Wildlife Management Areas in California.—H.R. 107, introduced by Mr. Lea (California), signed into law May 18, 1948, provides for acquisition and maintenance of wildlife management and control areas in California by the Secretary of the Interior. Up to 20,000 acres may be acquired for these purposes, provided the State of California sets aside funds for purchase of acreages equivalent to those purchased with federal funds.

Statistically, conservation suffered no major setbacks in the 80th Congress. Some gains were made. The success of our defense in the Olympic and Jackson Hole controversies was due to united action by conservationists. Letters to Congressmen were heeded, no question of that, so let's give them some repeat business next year.

JACK BARNARD.

François E. Matthes

The death of François E. Matthes on June 21 was not only a great loss to the scientific world of which he was an outstanding member, but a deep personal loss to his many friends in the Sierra Club.

His achievements have been many. A detailed biographical sketch will appear in the next annual number of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, but it seems appropriate at this time to quote the citation which accompanied the United States Department of the Interior honor award for distinguished service, with gold medal, received by Doctor Matthes only this April.

The citation is as follows:

FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—MR. FRANÇOIS EMILE MATTHES
upon retirement after a career of 51 years in the service of the Government, characterized by outstanding professional and scientific contributions. From the outset of his career, Mr. Matthes was intensely interested in the problems of delineating the shape of surface features of the land by means of topographic contour lines and came to excel in this highly skilled and difficult art. Moreover, he became interested in the process by which these land forms were fashioned. While progressing in the service as a skilled topographer, during which he mapped Glacier National Park, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Yosemite Valley, and Mount Rainier National Park, his interest in the processes of land formations increased and he annually presented papers before scientific societies on the glacial and other geologic features of the areas he was mapping. In 1913, having finally become one of the foremost topographers in this country, he decided to devote the remainder of his career to glacial geology. Accordingly, he became associate geologist in the Geological Survey. During this second period of his professional career, Mr. Matthes made many valuable and exceptionally well-written contributions to glacial geology and geomorphology and became recognized internationally as an outstanding glacial geologist. A bibliography of his published works includes nearly 100 items. Many of his publications deal with the glacial history of the country that he loves best, the Yosemite and High Sierras, but his writings embrace a variety of other subjects and regions. He has, for example, made important contributions to the development of the present system of national parks. As chairman of the committee on glaciers of the American Geophysical Union since 1931, he has led in the organization of cooperative studies and measurements of the modern glaciers in this country and elsewhere. He is also a leading student of the elusive record of pre-historic, post-Pleistocene fluctuations of climate. Most glacial geologists will probably select his paper on the geologic history of the Yosemite Valley as his most outstanding single contribution to our knowledge of how mountain glaciers of the past have made some of the most spectacular landscapes of today. Mr. Matthes was decorated Chevalier, Order of Leopold II (Belgium) in 1920. He is past president of the Geological Society of Washington and of the Association of American Geographers. He received the degree of LL.D. from the University of California in 1947. This distinguished career, during which Mr. Matthes contributed so outstandingly to scientific knowledge and the public service, deserves the highest commendation of the Department.

J. L. KRUG
Secretary of the Interior

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